

WALKS AND TALKS

(By Julius Chambers, in Pittsburg Dispatch.)

NEW YORK, Sept. 14.—Aside from politics, President Roosevelt has taken exactly the correct attitude in regard to the Russian steamer Lena: "Dismantle or stay six weeks to repair, and then you positively must get out."

There isn't any ambiguity or diplomacy in that. If she is to be dismantled it must be done now. If she remains to make repairs it must be with the understanding that she sails at the end of that time if a squadron of Japanese cruisers is waiting for her. The attempt to bring the United States into an equivocal position such as that from which China was only rescued by external influences has failed. If the report that Japanese cruisers are outside the Golden Gate waiting for the Lena be true, it is highly probable that she will be dismantled and that her crew will return to Russia overland through New York.

Friendship for Russia belongs to the American people and is very generally felt, but it does not go to the length of permitting her to embroil us in a controversy that may last for years and may involve half the nations of the world before the end is reached.

By the way, would the Filipinos, who are so greedy for independence, wish to be in a position to be annexed by Japan whenever she was ready to do so? Therein ought to be found the diplomatic solution of the whole Filipino question. If the Filipino Republic (hereafter to be formed) will return, the United States the \$20,000,000 paid to Spain for the privilege of acquiring what was ours already will that same republic be willing to defend itself from Japan, for example, and guarantee its own integrity? If that card be called in the Senate of the United States or in the next Democratic convention I fail to see any answer. It would be much more honorable if we played an open hand and sold the islands to Japan for a few of her excellent and effective battleships. Having wiped the Russian navy off the ocean she has not a great deal of use for so many ironclads. This country needs fighting ships. I merely advance this thought in order to have all Republicans and Democrats alike rise up and denounce it.

And yet that is what the impracticables of Boston and elsewhere are advocating. It is not my view of the meeting. The old story of the woodman and the bear is reversed. If the man in the fable let go he made the bear sure of a meal; if we turn the Philippines loose without undertaking to make their cause ours we merely give 2,000 islands to the first power that can get hold of them. Unless we are prepared for that the formation of a Filipino Republic is a phantasmagoria.

A stock broker friend who lives at Hillsdale, N. J., tells me one of the most curious stories I ever heard. His fine brick house stands among the hills, four miles from the railroad station. He has been in the habit of closing it and coming into the city the first of September, but the warm weather induced him to remain later this year. He was surprised yesterday morning to be asked by a stranger: "When do you move into town?" The inquiry from a man he did not know seemed peculiar, and the broker equivocated by replying: "As soon as possible." The questioner thanked him and disappeared.

All day long, in the face of a hustling stock market, the broker kept asking himself what possible interest that stranger could have had in knowing when he closed his country house. Returning to Hillsdale last evening he made inquiries and learned that "his tenant moved in every fall as soon as he came to town." Never had the place been subtlet. The house was supposed to be closed from September till June.

As a matter of fact, the house has been occupied every winter for five years. The front part of it was kept closed. In the rooms occupied by the "squatters" the most scrupulous care was taken to leave everything exactly as found. A diagram or photograph was made of each room and every article of bric-a-brac was replaced exactly where it had been left by the owners. The winter tenants were honest beyond doubt; they only had conscientious scruples against paying rent. They took a chance of arrest; but the only possible penalty for entering and breaking in daylight, where no intent to commit a felony can be shown, would be a fine for trespass. Nothing more could be inflicted. Not an ounce of coal or a cubic foot of gas belonging to the owner was used. The house and furniture were the only things illegally converted to the use of the winter inhabitants.

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THE ENEMY AT HOME.



—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

MR. DAVIS' ASSESSMENT LAW

The favorite argument of Mr. John J. Cornwell and his supporting newspapers against tax reform measures is that the extra session of the Legislature departed from the original tax commission bills and adopted substitutes which are inequitable and harmful. Mr. Cornwell and his papers mournfully say that the commission's plan was wise and just, but that the laws adopted are in the interests of the corporations and will raise the farmer's taxes. Those good Democrats, Henry G. Davis and John H. Holt, they said, never contemplated such acts as were passed by the Legislature. "I would have voted for the tax commission bills," said Mr. Cornwell.

Now, let us go into detail as to Mr. Cornwell's objections. He specifically objects to assessing property at its "true and actual value." He selects section 12 of the new assessment law as a case in point and in every speech and utterance dwells upon the iniquity of this passage. His newspapers publish this section in big black type as an awful warning. The local organ did it Tuesday. It is denounced by Mr. Cornwell and his papers as the most outrageous thing the Legislature did. Now, let us see what this dreadful provision is. As stated it is section 12 of the new assessment law and reads as follows:

12. All property both real and personal in any county, except as herein otherwise expressly provided, shall be assessed as of the first day of April of each year at its true and actual value; that is to say, at the price for which such property, the value of which is sought to be ascertained, is usually sold, and not the price which might be realized if such property were sold at a forced sale.

Unfortunately for the argument that the Legislature departed from the original tax commission plan and did things Henry G. Davis and John H. Holt would not sanction, we find on pages 67 and 68, section 12 of Draft C of the original tax commission bills the following:

12. All property both real and personal in any county, except as herein otherwise expressly provided, shall be assessed as of the first day of January of each year at its true and actual value; that is to say, at the price for which such property would sell if voluntarily offered for sale by the owner thereof upon such terms as such property the value of which is sought to be ascertained is usually sold, and not the price which might be realized if such property were sold at a forced sale.

The only difference it will be seen in the original commission bill from the bill passed is that the assessment shall be made April 1st instead of January 1st. The original bill also had a sentence at the end requiring that if property were sold during the preceding year the sale price should be taken. This was cut off to lessen the severity of the law.

In another pamphlet an argument favoring the adoption of this law may be found signed by five gentlemen of whom two are Henry G. Davis and John H. Holt.

"Dawson's bogus tax reform" is what Mr. Cornwell and his local organ call this articular law. Perhaps it is bogus, but if it is Mr. Dawson is not responsible. Mr. Cornwell should call it in that event "Henry G. Davis's and John H. Holt's bogus tax reform." It is said that a Democrat should have to make his sole issue upon a twelve line paragraph prepared by men prominent in Democratic circles when he was unknown, but he should be fair enough to give the real authorship. —Wheeling News.

GRAND REPUBLICAN MASS MEETING AT PARKERSBURG.

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A HOPELESS FIGHT

Thoughtful Democrats have probably not entertained much hope of success in the present campaign, but the thoughtless, enthusiastic partisans, if they do not largely outnumber their more philosophic brethren, are generally more vociferous and managed to a considerable extent to impress their views on the party. The latter have been greatly shaken of late by events the significance of which it is impossible to ignore, and the results in Vermont and Maine will in all probability extinguish their enthusiasm. These States may be fairly regarded as politically typical of any and all the States except those in the South. There are two parties in each of them and both parties have had their factional quarrels. This may be said of every State in the Union, for though the Southern States have practically but one party it has its factions, and serious ones at that. In spite of divisions the Republican party poiled a phenomenal vote in Vermont and Maine. The Maine Democrats are as partisan, if not more so, than in any American State and they made a supreme effort, but they failed to weaken the Republican phalanx, while in Vermont many of the Democrats voted squarely with the Republicans, declining to sever the connection to which they were driven by Bryanism.

The people of these two States are not essentially different from the people of other States. They are as amenable to reason as others, and as likely to be influenced by political happenings which call for reflection and a change of political views. If there were any serious opposition to Republican administration outside of a partisan Democracy it would certainly show itself in these States. It might not be as decided in Vermont as in other States, but it would be seen and felt in the election, while in Maine it would manifest itself as fully as in any other State of the Union. The votes of those States speak for themselves. There is absolutely no weakening in the Republican ranks, no drift whatever from the Republican party to the Democrats, while a considerable number of the latter are acting with the Republicans and may be regarded as permanently enrolled in the party.

There will probably be no further effort of the Democrats to carry any New England State. The most obnoxious will recognize that Connecticut and Rhode Island are Democratic rainbows. But the lesson taught by these elections is far broader. There is no more probability of carrying Indiana and New Jersey than there was of carrying Maine or of reducing the majority in the latter to a small figure. It is evident from these elections that the Republicans are not only satisfied with their party's administration of public affairs, but are highly gratified and most anxious for a continuance of the country's prosperity under the same conditions. There is absolutely no drift from the Republican ranks to the Democratic party, not the slightest indication of such a movement, and unless hundreds of thousands of Republicans vote the Democratic ticket in November there can be no reasonable hope of a Democratic victory. —Baltimore American.

TO HONOR DR. LORIMER.

Executive Committee of Madison Avenue Baptist Church Arranging For Large Funeral.

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.—There was a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Madison Avenue Baptist Church held at the offices of F. N. Hoffstot, No. 24 Broad street, yesterday afternoon, to arrange for the funeral of the Rev. Dr. George C. Lorimer, which will probably take place the latter part of next week, when Dr. Lorimer's son is expected to return with the body on the Teutonic.

A committee was appointed to confer with the family. The old parishoners of Tremont Temple and those of the most prominent Baptist churches in the city have been asked to join in paying tribute to the dead minister. Fresh Oysters, Robb's Fish Market.

THE WEST VIRGINIAN'S OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

President of the United States—Theodore Roosevelt, of New York.
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U. S. Marshal—Charles D. Elliott.

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Clerk of the County Court—Geo. M. Jacobs.
County Surveyor—L. H. Wilcox.
County Superintendent of Free Schools—Carter L. Faust.
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Legislators.
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